

ELEVEN CATAWBA COUNTY 4-H MEMBERS HONORED FOR STATE, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL SUCCESS

The Catawba County Board of Commissioners recently presented Certificates of Commendation to eleven young people who are all actively involved in the 4-H program and have successfully represented the county on the state, regional and national level.

“In proud recognition and with heartiest congratulations, this certificate recognizes your achievement”, said Kitty Barnes, Chair of the Board of Commissioners, reading from the certificates each of the winners received. “We commend you and your teammates for your spirit, motivation, and teamwork.”

Those honored include:

Leann Barger, who was a first place winner of the Turkey Grilling Contest at the national Poultry and Egg Conference.

Lisa Baxter, a member of the North Carolina 4-H Livestock Judging Team which won eighth place at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, sixth place in the Eastern Nationals Livestock Expo, fourth place in the Keystone International Livestock Expo and third place in the Southeast Regional 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

Adam Coto, a member of the North Carolina 4-H Wildlife Team which won fifth place in the National Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Contest.

Tom Devine a member of the North Carolina 4-H Livestock Judging Team which won eighth place at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, sixth place in the Eastern Nationals Livestock Expo, fourth place in the Keystone International Livestock Expo and third place in the Southeast Regional 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

Julia Elmore, a member of the North Carolina 4-H Livestock Judging Team which won eighth place at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, sixth place in the Eastern Nationals Livestock Expo, fourth place in the Keystone International Livestock Expo and third place in the Southeast Regional 4-H Livestock Judging Contest. Elmore also received an individual commendation at the Southeast Regionals.

Ethan Hefner, a member of the North Carolina 4-H Horse Bowl Team which won first place in the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship and the North Carolina Hippology Team which won first place in the Southern Regionals. Ethan also won a first place individual award, and a second place individual Hippology award at the Southern Regional Horse Bowl, and a second place individual award at Eastern Nationals competition.

Madison Malson, for her representation of Catawba County as a National 4-H Congress delegate. Lisa Baxter and Ethan Hefner were also delegates to the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Georgia.

Leah Phillips, a member of the North Carolina 4-H Horse Bowl Team which won third place in the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship.

Anna Sigmon, a member of the North Carolina 4-H Judging Team which won fourth place at the American Quarter Horse Youth Association World Show, as well as her fourth place in Horse Presentations at the Southern Regionals and for her work as a 4-H presentation participant at the All American Quarter Horse Congress.



Front row (left to right): Julia Elmore, Morgan Watts, Leann Barger, Anna Sigmon, Leah Sigmon. Back row (left to right): Tom Devine, Adam Coto, Madison Malson, and Ethan Hefner. Not pictured: Lisa Baxter

Leah Sigmon, a member of the North Carolina Hippology Team which won first place in the Eastern National 4-H Horse Round-Up, first place in the North Carolina All American Quarter Horse Congress and second place in the Southern Regional 4-H Horse Championship.

Morgan Watts, a member of the North Carolina 4-H Livestock Judging Team which won eighth place at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest, sixth place in the Eastern Nationals Livestock Expo, fourth place in the Keystone International Livestock Expo and third place in the Southeast Regional 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

County Commissioner Glenn Barger put the accomplishments of the winners into a notable context when he said, “There’s lots of talk about gangs across our nation and about the involvement of our youth in gangs. I commend this group for being involved in a gang...the 4-H gang.”

“The type of commitment that these young people, and their parents, have shown is outstanding and is worth another round of applause,” Barger added as he led the audience in applause for the entire group after each had been recognized individually.

Donna Mull, North Carolina Cooperative Extension Catawba Center 4-H Agent, told the commissioners and the audience more about that time commitment, pointing out that national winners have all won contests on multiple levels on the local, state and regional levels. She said the 4-H members had the opportunity to try-out for a spot on the North Carolina horse or livestock teams after winning at the district and state levels. After they earned a spot on the State team (composed of top scoring 4-H members from different counties) they often competed at three to four different national contests. She also thanked the parents of the 4-H members for helping them stay focused on studying for the competition, manage the time commitment involved in their 4-H activities, and helping them travel to the varying competitions.

Mull recognized Area Livestock and Agriculture Agent Jeff Carpenter, who coached the Livestock Judging Team in national competition and is supportive of the entire 4-H program, and Debbie Wentz, a leader of the Bits and Bridles 4-H Club in Catawba County, who coached the Horse Bowl team that won a national championship after also coaching winning teams on the state level.

4-H offers clubs, special interest programs, summer camps, school enrichment and after-school child care. Guided by North Carolina Cooperative Extension educators, and adult and teen volunteers, 4-H members gain knowledge, skills and experience that help them become responsible citizens and leaders.

For more information on the Catawba County 4-H program, you may contact Donna Mull at 828-465-8242.

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